Investigations Against Ex-Director of NIO, Dauna Paula, Goa

1536. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any C. B. I. investigations are going on in the conduct of ex-Director of N. I. O., Dauna Paula, Goa who retired on 31st March, 1994;

(b) what are the main charges investigated;

(c) at what stage the investigation has reached; and

(d) whether this retired officer was permitted to leave the country pending these investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The CBI conducted only discreet verification of the alleged submission of false bills to the Department of Ocean Development by ex-Director and other Officers of NIO towards expenditure incurred in collection of polymetalic nodules in the Indian Ocean.

(c) The CBI, while forwarding the findings of their investigation, have suggested that the matter may be looked into departmentally for taking action against the concerned Officers.

(d) Since the Ex-Director of the Institute was due to retire on attaining the age of superannuation on 31st March, 1994 and he had applied for a No Objection Certificate for going abroad thereafter, the advice of Central Vigilance Commission was sought in the matter. The Commission observed that as per the information furnished by CBI, no vigilance angle could be revealed. Taking into consideration this fact, No Objection was accordingly conveyed for obtaining a private passport by him. Suitable action against him under relevant rules will be initiated, in case the investigations lead to any substantial evidence about his involvement in the matter.

Qualified Scientists & Researchers facing Unemployment

1537. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research Scientists and Fellows Association, Lucknow has been making representations to the effect that a large number of qualified scientists and Researchers are facing unemployment and if so, the steps taken by the Government to open employment opportunities for them; and

(b) the estimated number of scientific and technically qualified persons employed at present and whether Government have formulated any plans for absorbing them in the R&D programmes and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

There are a number of schemes which are existing for the Research Scientists and Research Fellows for providing them with opportunities to pursue research. The important ones are:

(i) A special Scheme for Young Scientists only for supporting their research work for a period of two-three years, which includes the salary of the Research Scientist;

(ii) Fellowship programmes which provide opportunities to Young Scientists for research training to spend varying periods in leading S&T laboratories both in the country as well as abroad;

(iii) Scientists Pool Programme, Post Doctoral Fellowships, Research Associateships, Research Scientists etc. being operated by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and University Grants Commission (UGC) which provide temporary placements to these research scientists;

(iv) Opportunities for self-employment through the S&T Entrepreneurship Development Programmes.

Recently the Government has increased the fellowship amounts to all categories of research scholars.

(b) The stock of economically active S&T personnel is estimated to be around 3.8 million at the beginning of 1995. Support under the above schemes is available for three to five years and in some cases even more and after gaining experience, these personnel may get employment either at R&D institutions, universities or in public|private sectors.

UNISPACE III

1538. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is still the sole runner to hold the third international conference on space UNISPACE III;

(b) if so, whether UNISPACE III will be held at the Space Centre in Bangalore;

(c) by when the Conference is likely to be held; and

(d) what new initiatives in Space are likely to be explored and implemented to increase international co-operation especially for the benefit of the developing countries and to seek new formulae for disseminating the benefits obtained from the peaceful use of outer space, since outer space is a common heritage shared by the whole world community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) India made a proposal during the February 1994 Session of the UN-Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPOUS) S&T Sub-Committee Meeting for holding the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, UNISPACE-III.

(b) and (c) India made the proposal to hold the UNISPACE-III Conference preferably in a developing Country and also offered to host the Conference in Bangalore City during 1996. However, a consensus is yet to be reached in the UN-COPOUS in regard to the holding of a UNISPACE-III, the venue and the time.

(d) India is pursuing its efforts in international fora for increased international cooperation especially for the benefit of developing countries. India is playing an active role in the organisation of special Workshops for the benefit of developing countries during the annual Congresses of the Indian Astronautical Federation.

India is active in the Committee on Earth Observation Systems which deals with the Space Remote Sensing aspects In the UN-COPOUS, India has always participated very actively for disseminating the benefits of Outer Space amongst all the Countries. The proposal to hold the UNISPACE-III and the offer to hold it in India is one of such efforts. India is playing an important role in arriving at consensus in regard to questions related to the implementation of Remote Sensing of Earth by Satellites, use of nuclear